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It would be fairer, no doubt, to recast the translation somewhat as follows: 'do away with this notion, grief is gone'. This is quite like familiar turns in English, such as 'Take away his tobacco one day, his nerves are all on edge'.

In this example, the words 'Take away his tobacco' are very far from being a *command* to do the thing specified. And the point I here desire to make is that an imperative form is but rarely used as the direct expression of a conditional idea, and that it can be so used only when it is void of real volitive force. Failure to make this distinction is responsible for many a mistaken note. A few illustrations will make this clearer.

Plautus, Miles Gloriosus 1368-1369:

PY. Vix reprimor quin te manere iubeam.

PA. Cave istuc feceris;

dicant te mendacem nec verum esse, fide nulla esse te.

There can be no question that the second speech in this passage is elliptical. The sense is, 'Don't do so; (if you should), people would say you were untruthful', etc. In other words, we have here a negative command, followed by a separate sentence consisting of an apodosis with suppressed protasis; for surely no one would attempt to find a conditional function in *cave ne feceris*—if for no other reason than that it is a phrase of negative import, whereas the condition required by *dicant* is *si feceris*.

Plautus, Miles Gloriosus 1364-1365:

Cogitato identidem, tibi quam fidelis fuerim;

si id facies, tum demum scibis, tibi qui bonus sit, qui malus.

The nature of the use under consideration is well illuminated by this example in which the condition is actually expressed. Without an expressed condition, the thought of the sentence would have been perfectly intelligible (just as in the example first cited); but the expression of the condition here proves beyond question its suppression in the other.

Cicero, In Cat. 1.23:

ac, si mihi inimico (ut praedicas) tuo conflare vis invidiam, recta perge in exilium; vix feram sermones hominum, si id feceris.

This sentence is interesting as showing full expression of the thought in the second clause. Had he so chosen, Cicero might have suppressed the final condition without risk to clarity of expression: 'If you desire to stir up feeling against me your personal enemy (as you claim), go straightway into exile; I shall be overwhelmed by a very landslide of criticism'.

This is really a plain and simple matter; and the Grammarians are probably somewhat to blame for giving so little attention to what may roughly be styled 'one-clause conditional speaking', i. e. the use of an apodosis without an expressed protasis. It is in fact a very common construction, by no means confined to contexts that provide a volitive expression. Compare e. g. Horace, Ars Poetica 102-104:

si vis me flere, dolendum est
primum ipsi tibi; tum tua me infortunia laedent,
Telephe vel Peleu.

In actual teaching, much trouble has been found with the contrary-to-fact type of this construction, which appears frequently in negative contexts, e. g. Cicero, Pro Deiotaro 38:

. . . non modo tibi non suscenset (esset enim non solum ingratus, sed etiam amens), verum omnem tranquillitatem . . . refert clementiae tuae.

The meaning, of course, is clear: 'He not only feels no resentment toward you (for, *if he did*, he would be mad as well as ungrateful), but to your kindness he ascribes all his comfort'. So in connection with an unfulfilled wish, Cicero, Phil. 5.5

qui utinam omnes ante me sententiam rogarentur:
. . . facilius contra dicerem. . . .

These few passages may serve to illustrate a rather common construction that needs far more attention and clearer definition than the Grammarians usually give to it.

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DO NEW YORKERS READ THE CLASSICS?

A newspaper writer composed a semi-humorous article about reading the Classics. The article would lead one to suppose that, while in The New York Public Library the latest novels are in constant demand, the Classics (especially the great Greek and Roman writers) lie dust-covered and neglected on the shelves. What is the truth? This is the record of a brief investigation to furnish some data toward an answer.

It should be noted that (1) the books of only one branch library were examined; (2) other copies of the same books were in readers' hands when the examination was made; (3) only English translations were inspected; (4) literal prose translations, of the kind sometimes used by students for "ponies" or "trots", were not considered.

A copy of the poetical translation of the Aeneid, by William Morris, had been out six times between January 16 and May 4, this year. Cranch's version of the Aeneid, also in verse, <had been out> five times between January 5 and March 20. One volume of Quintilian's Institutes of Oratory went out six times in 1919. Ramsay's translation of Tacitus's Histories went out four times between January 6 and April 19. Murray's translation of Euripides's Iphigenia in Tauris had been borrowed four times between January 5 and April 7, while his translation of Sophocles's King Oedipus had been taken three times between March 1 and April 7. A copy of Myers's translation of Pindar's Odes had been rebound; the second binding was nearly worn out, as the book had been borrowed over fifty times. How many readers used it, each time of borrowing, is not recorded. One of the numerous copies of the Iliad, translated by Lang, Leaf and Myers, went out three times between March 4 and April 9; this copy had been rebound and had been borrowed over sixty times. Butcher and Lang's version of the Odyssey was lent five times from January 3 to April 26. Murray's translation of the Frogs of Aristophanes was taken out five times between January 10 and May 8; this had been out forty-eight times altogether; and the second binding was nearly worn out. A volume of Jowett's Plato's Dialogues had been rebound, and was badly worn again; it had been borrowed *ninety-eight* times.

¹Reprinted from Branch Library News, Volume 7, Number 2, May, 1920 (this periodical is published quarterly by The New York Public Library). I owe knowledge of this article to the vigilance and kindness of Miss E. Adelaide Hahn, of Hunter College. C. K.

One of the numerous copies of Jowett's Aristotle's Politics had been out fifty-two times—thrice between January 10 and April 5, 1920. These are examples of the use of classic authors, taken at random. Similar facts could be cited about most of the other writings of the Greek and Roman poets, orators, dramatists, and philosophers.

In considering the demand for the Classics, remember that a new, popular novel is called for during a period of a few months, or perhaps a year, while the Classics are read year in and year out. Also, remember that the new novels are often borrowed, read, and returned within the space of two or three days. People who read the classic authors usually read them more deliberately, and keep the books at home for a longer time.

The Classical Club of Philadelphia

The 152nd meeting of The Classical Club of Philadelphia was held on Friday, December 3, with twenty-five members present. Professor Rhys Carpenter, of Bryn Mawr College, read a most interesting paper on Pythagoreanism in Greek Art. Pythagoras was the first scientific mathematician (for the Greeks mathematics meant geometry). Number and numerical operations were visualized and concrete, and number was an inherent property lurking in concrete objects. Pythagoreanism in art, then, means the tendency to ascribe great significance to the presence of certain simple numerical properties and to view number under a geometric form, so that it is most clearly present when it is most concretely embodied under our eyes in material objects. From this definition, Professor Carpenter showed what effect mathematical theory and belief in the efficacy of number had on the actual practices of Greek art, sculpture, and architecture.

B. W. MITCHELL, *Secretary*.

THE WASHINGTON CLASSICAL CLUB

The fall meeting of The Washington Classical Club was held in the parlors of the College Women's Club on the afternoon of November 20. A combination of circumstances had caused the meeting to be postponed a week beyond the usual time and this doubtless tended to reduce the number of members in attendance, but those who were present thoroughly enjoyed the interesting and scholarly paper on Petrarch's Latin epic Africa which was read by Professor Wilfred P. Mustard, of The Johns Hopkins University.

The following officers were elected for the year: President, Miss Mildred Dean, of Central High School; Vice-Presidents, Rev. Henry J. Shandelle, S.J., of Georgetown University, Professor Roy J. Deferrari, of the Catholic University of America, Dr. George S.

Duncan, and Miss Mary Bechtel, of Gunston Hall School; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Mabel C. Hawes, of Eastern High School; Corresponding Secretary, Professor Charles S. Smith, of George Washington University; additional members of the Executive Committee, Dr. William A. Eckels, Miss Phebe A. I. Howell, and Mr. Ogle R. Singleton. Under such leadership, the Club expects an unusually successful season.

CHARLES S. SMITH, *Corresponding Secretary*.

AD PRIMAN NIVEM

En, nives primae tacito volatu
decidunt caelo radiantque pura
luce crystalli nitidoque solis
lumine rident!

Lana sic splendet niveo colore
sordibus nondum vitiata vici;
lilium casto iubaris lepore
prata serenat.

O nives, colles tegite atque valles
albido velo, tegite et lacertos
arborum nudos, gelidis amictum
promite campis!

Dormit in terris bona spes aristae;
sic, nives, semen foveatis, oro,
candida veste, ut seges inde nobis
aurea surgat.

Noctis illapsae tacitas per horas,
iam, nives, orbi scelerum nefandis
sordibus nigro tunicam parate
immaculatam!

Criminum caeno tenebrosa corda,
O nivis purum Iubar et Creator,
Virginis Proles, tribuas nitere
lumine casto.

Hoc meum votum Domino placere,
qui nivem vestit nitido lepore,
spem colo certam referoque laeto
pectore grates.

CAMPION COLLEGE,
Prairie du Chien, Wis.

A. F. GEYSER, S.J., A.M.